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Ludlow Rural District

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1948.

Public Health Staff

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

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F. O. WATERHOUSE, M.S.I.A., CERT. S.I.B.

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LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, 1948.

LUDLOW.

1st June, 1949.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the report on the health of your district for the year ending 31st December, 1948. It has been drawn up in accordance with the Ministry of Health's Circular 3/49, dated 17th January, 1949.

The Registrar-General estimates the population at mid-1948 as being 13,710, which is thirty more than in 1947. The Birth-rate was 17·3 and the Death-rate 12·0 per 1,000 of the population. There were no Maternal deaths and Infant deaths numbered nine, which gives a rate of 37 per 1,000 live births.

Apart from cases of Measles and Whooping Cough among the children, there were only seven cases of Infectious Diseases notified, and there were no deaths from any of these diseases. The immunisation of the children against Diphtheria has now been taken over by the County Health Department as from 5th July, 1948.

There were only three deaths from Tuberculosis as compared with six in the previous year, and the rate was very low indeed—0·218 per 1,000 of the population.

The Council had twenty-one houses completed during the year—fifteen at Craven Arms and six at Hope Bowdler. In addition to these, there were nineteen houses built by private enterprise, making a total of forty houses in all. At the end of the year there were twenty-seven Council houses and nine private ones under construction.

With regard to Water Supplies, little progress has been made with the Council's major schemes, but at Hope Bowdler a supply has been completed for the new Council houses and a start has been made with the supply for Bitterley, and there have been extensions to other supplies.

A tender has been accepted for the new Sewerage Works at Cleobury Mortimer and the Council hope shortly to have schemes for works at Clee Hill, Ashford Carbonell, and Diddlebury.

JAMES L. GREGORY,

Medical Officer of Health.

Section A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	113,004
Registrar-General's estimate of population, mid-1948					13,710
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...		3,970
Rateable Value of District	...	...	...		£63,646
Product of 1d. Rate	...	...	...	...	£265

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS—

			Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	...	222	115	107
Illegitimate	...	...	15	6	9
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		Totals	237	121	116
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

BIRTH-RATE per 1,000 of the estimated population = 17·3.

			Total	M.	F.
STILL BIRTHS	...	...	6	1	5
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

STILL-BIRTH RATE per 1,000 total Still-births = 24·6.

			Total	M.	F.
DEATHS	...	...	166	82	84
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

DEATH-RATE per 1,000 of estimated population = 12·0.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES ... Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR—

			Number of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
(a) Legitimate Infants per 1,000				
legitimate births	...	...	9	40
(b) Illegitimate Infants per 1,000				
illegitimate births	...	...	0	0
(c) All Infants per 1,000 live births			9	37
			<hr/>	<hr/>

DEATHS from—

Cancer	...	...	...	...	33
Measles	...	...	...	...	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	0
Tuberculosis (all forms)	...	...	...	...	3

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

There were 237 births registered, of which 15 were illegitimate, which is about the same percentage (6%) as in the last few years. The birth-rate was 17·3 per 1,000 of the population. (England and Wales = 17·9).

STILL BIRTHS.

There were 6 still-births as compared with 11 in 1947. This gives a rate of 24·6 and is slightly above that for the country (23·1), which rate was a new low record.

DEATHS.

Deaths numbered 166 (males 82, females 84) and the death-rate was 12·0 per 1,000 of the population. (England and Wales = 10·8).

A table showing the cause of deaths will be found at the end of the report. It will be noticed that Heart Disease, Cancer and Cerebral Hæmorrhage account for 112 deaths out of the 166 registered, or 67% of the total.

Deaths from Infectious Diseases numbered 4—one from Whooping Cough and three from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

PUERPERAL DEATHS.

There were again no deaths from conditions associated with child-birth.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Nine infants died under the age of one year. This gives a rate of 37 per total live births. (England and Wales = 34).

NATURAL INCREASE OF POPULATION.

The births during the year exceeded the deaths by 71.

Section B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

STAFF.

There is no change to report for the year, the officers being the Medical Officer of Health, the Senior Sanitary Inspector (who is also Surveyor), and an Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The County Council took over the Ambulance Services on the 5th July, 1948, and the scheme was out-lined in the Report for last year (page 4). Briefly, there will be three ambulances stationed at Ludlow (Tel. 184), and if any difficulty is experienced in getting one of these then a call to Cross Houses 242 will ensure one of the ambulances stationed there being sent.

Applications for cars for sitting cases should be made to the County Health Office (Tel. Shrewsbury 3031) and, if possible, 48 hours' notice should be given.

Long distance journeys outside of the County will be undertaken by the ambulances from the Central Dépôt (Cross Houses 242).

NURSING IN THE HOME.

From July 5th, 1948, this work is administered by the Health Committee of the County Council through a Nursing Sub-Committee. Nurses employed by District Nursing Associations have been transferred to the County Council Staff.

The County Council have established a Home Help Service Office at Ludlow (Tel. Ludlow 47), and if a Home Help is required in the Rural District application should be made there.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

All the Hospitals available for residents in the district are now under control of the Hospital Board. This also applies to the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Monkmoor, Shrewsbury, and to the Tuberculosis Sanatoria.

The Welfare Committee of the County Council now provide residential accommodation for the "non-sick," and application should be made to the Welfare Officer, County Buildings Shrewsbury (Tel. 3031.)

The Assistance Board are responsible for Wayfarers (Casual Poor Persons) who require temporary accommodation.

In the case of Children needing care and attention, application should be made to the Children's Officer, Shirehall, Shrewsbury.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

These are provided at Ludlow for School Children, Infants, Ante-natal cases, Orthopædic cases, and at Shrewsbury for Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases. It is hoped that an Infant Welfare Centre will be opened at Cleobury Mortimer as soon as this is possible.

Section C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

This section of the report deals with Water Supplies, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal, Refuse Collection, Salvage, and other matters connected with environmental hygiene.

A rural district differs from a compact urban area in that there are many water supplies, etc., etc., to be kept under observation in the former instead of only one as is the case in a town. The distances to be travelled are also much longer in the country and much time is taken up in travelling from place to place. In the larger towns, also, each department has a separate official to control it, but this is not so in rural areas where one official has to be in charge of all the services.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The Surveyor (Mr. R. F. Saunders) reports that the water supply position is much the same as in 1947. The supplies maintained by the Council are at Craven Arms, Cleobury Mortimer, Clee Hill, Coreley and Stoke St. Milborough, and have proved adequate in quantity during the year. Particulars of these supplies have been given in previous reports and further information about them is given in Mr. A. H. S. Water's Report to the County Council in January, 1946.

Water is also taken from the Elan Aqueduct at fourteen points—seven being by the Council and seven by private persons.

There can be little doubt that people in country areas are becoming more and more "water-minded" and the demand for indoor piped supplies will become greater as time passes. In addition to this there is generally an increased demand for water on farms for milk cooling and cleansing of utensils, etc., and this must also be catered for, although the Council's duty is first to ensure that there is an adequate supply for domestic use.

One new minor supply was provided by the Council during the year—at Hope Bowdler, for twelve Council houses. In this case water from a spring in the hill-side above the houses is led to a small reservoir from which a gravity piped supply is afforded to the houses.

A small scheme was also carried out at Burford, where a 2in. main in Worcester Road, Burford, was replaced by a 3in. main in order to afford an improved supply to Messrs. Richard

Lloyd's ten new houses at the Council's Housing Estate. This replacement was carried out by agreement with the Tenbury Rural Council, the owners of the water supply.

At Craven Arms, with a view to obtaining extra water, pumping tests were carried out during the autumn on an old well at Watling Street, previously used for the purpose of public supply. The yield proved to be low, however—only about 800 gallons per hour—and it is not likely that use will be made of this source.

Pumping tests were also carried at two bore-holes, namely at Birtley and Wall-under-Heywood. Water from Birtley was contemplated as a supply for the village of Ticklerton, including the new houses to be built there by the Council, and from Wall-under-Heywood for the villages of Rushbury and Wall-under-Heywood, and Roman Bank and the new houses to be built at Wall.

The yield at Birtley—300 gallons per hour—was considered too low to be of use, but at Wall-under-Heywood 660 gallons per hour were obtained and this amount would be sufficient for the villages and new houses mentioned. Mr. A. H. S. Waters, Consulting Engineer to the Council, has been asked to prepare a scheme for the Wall area, using the bore-hole supply at Wall.

PURITY OF SUPPLIES.

A total of 73 samples were submitted for examination during the year, 69 for bacteriological and 4 for chemical examination. All four chemical reports were satisfactory, and of the bacteriological reports 24 were satisfactory and 45 were not. Many of the latter were samples taken from possible new supplies.

The supplies at Cleobury Mortimer and Craven Arms are chlorinated before going to the mains for distribution, and at Craven Arms the results were satisfactory in every case. At Cleobury Mortimer, where the quality of the untreated water is not satisfactory, two unsatisfactory reports were received on the chlorinated water and the dose of chlorine was therefore increased. This supply comes from an underground stream but its origin is not very certain.

The scheme proposed by the Council to get a supply for Cleobury Mortimer from the Elan Aqueduct has not yet been approved, but it is an urgent matter and should not be longer delayed. The Council have made representations for this part of their larger scheme to be given immediate preference by the Ministry of Health."

The following are the results of bacteriological examination of samples taken from the Council's supplies :-

Supply	No. of Samples	Satis.	Non-satis.
Craven Arms ...	4	4	0
Cleobury Mortimer ...	5	3	2
Stoke St. Milborough ...	6	5	1
Coreley ...	3	1	2
Clee Hill ...	3	1	2
Elan Aqueduct ...	3	1	2
Totals	24	15	9

Note.—The Ministry's standard for a domestic supply is that it should not have more than 2 presumptive B coli per 100 mls.

PROPOSED NEW SUPPLIES.

The scheme drawn up by Mr. A. H. S. Waters for supplying all the Parishes in the Ludlow Rural District, south of the Elan Aqueduct, from the Birmingham Water Department's supply, was approved by the Council and submitted to the Ministry of Health about two years ago, but no decision has as yet been made known by the Ministry regarding it. It is to be hoped that the Ministry's approval will soon be given as there is a shortage of good water supplies in the area referred to.

It is understood that the preparation of the Joint High Level Scheme for supplying the areas round the Clee Hills in the Ludlow and Bridgnorth Rural Districts is now well advanced and that it will be ready for submission to the Councils and the Ministry of Health at an early date.

The Council have decided on the undermentioned minor water supply schemes in the district :-

- (1) BITTERLEY. A supply for the village, including eight new Council houses, is now under construction. This scheme has been approved by the Ministry of Health.
- (2) Water mains extensions at Ludlow Road, Clee Hill; and Little Island, Studley.
- (3) Water mains extension to Cleobury Mortimer East Foreign Ward by agreement with the Birmingham Water Department and the Kidderminster Rural District Council.
- (4) Water mains extension from the Church Stretton mains at Little Stretton to Marshbrook in the Ludlow R.D.,

by agreement with the Church Stretton U.D.C. This has not yet been finally agreed upon but negotiations are taking place.

- (5) A supply to the village of Cleeton St. Mary's from a spring at Newfound Well.
 - (6) A supply to Hopton Wafers and Crumps Brook from a spring at Watsill.
 - (7) An extension of the Clee Hill supply to Hill Top, Clee Hill.
-

As already mentioned, the Council also decided, in view of the unsatisfactory quality of the water at Cleobury Mortimer, and the bad state of the auxiliary pumping plant there, to press the Ministry to allow a supply to be given to Cleobury Mortimer from the Elan Aqueduct, even if the full scheme for supplying the South-eastern Parishes could not yet be approved.

An auxiliary pumping plant was installed at Cornbrook and will act as a stand-by to the ram used for the Clee Hill supply.

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE, SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Surveyor reports that no new works of sewerage or sewage disposal were carried out during the year in the district.

At Cleobury Mortimer, the Council's new scheme has been approved and a tender accepted. It is expected that work will soon be commenced. Meanwhile, a temporary scheme of sewerage has had to be provided for the new houses being built at Ron Hill, as the new major scheme will not be completed by the time the houses are ready for occupation. The work involved, will, in the main, form part of the new scheme.

The disposal scheme at Craven Arms has functioned satisfactorily during the year, but will probably become overloaded as new houses are connected to it.

As regards proposed new schemes, the Council have decided that the following districts should be planned for in the order given :-

- (1) Clee Hill and Lion Lane.
- (2) Ashford Carbonell.
- (3) Diddlebury.

A number of new drainage systems, including septic tanks, were provided at private properties during the year but the pre-

vailing sanitary arrangements in the district are still of a primitive nature as was shown in the survey of 3,000 houses. Of that number, only 18% had W.Cs., 50% had pail closets and 32% privy middens. As more houses are connected to main water supplies the demand for sewage disposal facilities will, of course, increase in proportion. At present only about 36% of the houses surveyed have water laid on to the house.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The Council's scheme has been continued as in 1947. This includes a weekly collection at Craven Arms and Cleobury Mortimer, and a six-weekly collection elsewhere. A suggestion to increase the collections in the more scattered areas was under consideration, but was deferred for the present. Disposal is by tipping at Cleobury Mortimer, Clee Hill, Woofferton, Onibury Lane, and Greenway Cross, Craven Arms, and no nuisances have arisen from the tips.

SALVAGE COLLECTION.

A total of 23 tons, 17 cwts. of paper have been salvaged during the year and this amount shows a large increase over the total for the previous year (13 tons, 14 cwts.) Collectors are paid a bonus on sales. A trailer attached to the refuse cart is used for salvage and visits are as for refuse collection.

INSPECTIONS.

The following are particulars of the various visits paid by the Sanitary Inspectors under the Public Health, Housing and other Acts and Orders :-

Water Supplies—including visits for sampling	526
Housing	198
Refuse Collection	38
Meat and Foods Inspection	204
Dairies and Cow Sheds	77
New Buildings and Building Work	212
Visits to Council Houses	259
Infectious Diseases	3
Factories and Workshops	34
Food Premises	45
Petrol Installations	8
Miscellaneous visits	122
Total visits	<hr/> 1,726 <hr/>

Number of Notices served—			
(a) Informal	...	...	110
(b) Statutory	...	...	2
Housing Inspections recorded	...	...	198

FACTORIES ACTS—1937 and 1948.

Under these Acts a total of 34 visits were paid to Factories in the district by the Inspector. No defects were found and no notices served.

Section D

HOUSING.

Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	3,970
Number of Council Houses	...	...	131
Houses completed in 1948—			
(a) by Council	...	...	21
(b) by Private Enterprise	...	...	19
Houses under construction at 31st Dec., 1947—			
(a) by Council	...	...	27
(b) by Private Enterprise	...	...	9
Approximate number of applications	...	...	600
Number of Houses allotted for 1949	...	...	30

It will be seen that a total of 40 houses were completed in the district during the year, as compared with 11 in the previous year. In addition to the number given, one farm house was converted into three dwellings and a dairy was made into a dwelling house.

Progress in building is still slow and will have to be greatly expedited if the shortage of houses is to be relieved to any extent. Difficulties have been encountered in getting tenders for houses in rural areas and in securing adequate water supplies at sites. In some cases the tenders for small groups of house have been too high for approval by the Ministry of Health.

Particulars of the result of the survey in the district were given in last year's report and these indicated what a very large problem has to be faced in bringing many houses up to a proper standard (1,843 need major repairs), in re-housing families from houses in Category V (104), and in the re-construction of some 307 other houses.

A Housing Bill at present before Parliament contains provisions which include schemes for the repairing and re-construction of existing houses, so many of which need to be dealt with. It must be realised that each year more and more of the older cottages are becoming unfit and gradually getting beyond repair.

The percentage of houses overcrowded, as revealed in the survey of nearly 3,000 houses, was 2%, but it will be remembered that the standard as laid down in the Housing Act, 1935, is not a high one.

The situations of the houses built by the Council during the year, or under construction at the end of the year, were as follows :-

Houses completed.		Houses under construction.	
Craven Arms	... 15	Craven Arms	... 9
Hope Bowdler	... 6	Cleobury Mortimer	10
		Bitterley	... ... 8

Section E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Most of the work under this heading has been carried out in connection with the Ministry of Food's Slaughter House at Craven Arms, where 6,100 animals were slaughtered during the year. This central slaughter house is not only for the Ludlow R.D., but also for other areas in South Shropshire and the work of inspection falls upon the Inspector for this district and his assistant. Regular inspections are carried out involving four or five visits each week, and it will be seen from the figures given below how necessary it is that these inspections should be carried out systematically if the food supply is to be adequately safeguarded.

The premises at Craven Arms are not suited to cope with the large number of animals now dealt with, but no decision has yet been come to by the Ministry concerned with regard to the building of new modern premises throughout the country.

The Inspector states in his report :—" Washing facilities with hot water have at last been provided by the Ministry of Food. This follows a campaign by the Council of two years or more. Surely it is a sorry commentary on the outlook and work

of a Government Department when such a time is taken to provide amenities such as would be required of any private individual or firm under the Food and Drugs Act."

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1379	707	3887	127
Number inspected	1379	707	3887	127
All diseases except Tuberculosis :				
Whole carcasses condemned...	18	12	46	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	746	8	94	24
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis	55%	2.7%	3.5%	24%
Tuberculosis only :				
Whole carcasses condemned...	21	—	—	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	210	1	—	10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	12%	0.14%	—	10%

WEIGHT OF MEAT CONDEMNED

- (1) On account of Tuberculosis 18,356 lbs.
- (2) On account of other conditions 20,473 lbs.

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

Corned Beef	107 tins.
Assorted Food Stuffs	195 tins.
Butter	2 lbs.
Bacon	116 lbs.
Fish	322 lbs.

There are very few premises in the district, other than butchers' shops, where food is prepared for sale for human consumption. The few there are were found to be satisfactory.

MILK.

Number of Producers on register ...	343
Number of Accredited Producers ...	18
Number of T.T. Producers	12

The Inspector reports that conditions generally were much the same as in 1947. During the year, 20 new Producers were registered and in all cases work was carried out at the premises concerned in order to make them comply with the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Orders.

The supervision of Milk production has not yet been taken over by the Ministry of Agriculture, but it is expected that this will soon be done as they are now advertising for staff to operate the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944.

The condition of many cow sheds leaves much to be desired and it will require time and work to bring them into line with modern requirements.

A total of 77 visits were paid to dairies and cow sheds during the year.

ICE CREAM.

There are only two Ice Cream manufacturers in the district and both employ the " cold mix " process, in which the ice cream mixture is bought as a powder and only water is added before it is frozen. The premises in both cases were found to comply with the regulations.

Section F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

No serious epidemic of Infectious Disease took place during the year and for the fifth year in succession no case of Diphtheria was notified. The following notifications were received from Medical Practitioners :-

Disease.		Cases notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	...	3	3	0
Whooping Cough	...	48	0	0
Measles	...	122	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	1	0	0
Pneumonia	...	1	0	0
Undulant Fever	...	1	0	0
Food Poisoning	...	1	0	0

Measles was most prevalent during the first, second and fourth quarters of the year, and Whooping Cough in the second quarter.

Scarlet Fever cases only numbered three and this disease is at present of a very mild type indeed and complications are not so common as formerly was the case.

The case of Food Poisoning was found to be due to one of the Salmonella group of organisms, but the food-stuff concerned was not traced nor were there any other cases. Care in the thorough cooking of food-stuffs is of importance in the avoidance of infection by food of all kinds, as most of the organisms concerned are destroyed by heat.

Undulant Fever is, in this country, usually due to infection from the milk of cows. It can also be contracted from the handling of infected pigs or goats or from goat's milk. It used to be termed Malta Fever or Mediterranean Fever and was very common among sailors serving with the Mediterranean Fleet.

The organism concerned is *Brucella abortus* and is the same as causes Contagious Abortion in cattle. The symptoms are continued fever and loss of weight and the disease usually runs a course of about three or four months. It is now possible to diagnose the disease by means of an agglutination test, but there is no doubt that many cases are missed as, apart from the fever, there may be no very obvious symptoms.

It is now usual for all specimens of blood sent in to the laboratory to be tested in cases of continued fever for agglutination with *Br. abortus* serum.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the first six months of the year a total of 64 children were immunised, 59 of these being under the age of five years. From July 5th, the responsibility for this work passed over entirely to the County Council Health Department and the returns are now made by the County Health Officer to the Ministry of Health. Over 90% of the school children are now protected against Diphtheria and approximately 65% of the younger children between the ages of one to four years.

No case of Diphtheria has been notified since the early months of 1943, so that the disease has been eradicated and should not again prove a menace to the lives of young children, provided that each year a high percentage of the children aged one year are immunised.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Isolation Hospitals were taken over by the Hospital Boards on the 5th July, 1948, and Monkmoor Hospital, Shrewsbury, is

the hospital appointed for cases of infectious diseases from this area.

With the disappearance of Diphtheria and the very mild type of Scarlet Fever which is prevalent at present, very few cases are now sent to the Isolation Hospital. For this reason the hospitals can serve a much larger area than was formerly possible. Medical Practitioners are asked to communicate with the Medical Officer of Health (Tel. Pontesbury 74) who will arrange for cases to be removed by ambulance if beds are available at the hospital.

HOME VISITING OF INFECTIOUS CASES.

The National Health Service Act, 1946 (Schedule 10) provides for the re-notification of all Infectious cases by the District M.O.H. to the County M.O.H. in order that, where considered necessary, visits may be paid by the Health Visitors to such cases and advice given. Notification fees are recoverable by the District Council from the County Council.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the register at the end of the year was as follows :-

MALES.		FEMALES.		Total.
Pulmon.	Non-pulmon.	Pulmon.	Non-pulmon	
48	52	52	40	192

The total number shows an increase of nine cases as compared with the number at the end of 1947.

NEW CASES.

Fourteen new cases were notified, which is about an average number for the district. Of these, twelve were of the Pulmonary type (five males and seven females). There were two Non-pulmonary cases (one male and one female).

DEATHS AND DEATH-RATES.

Three deaths were notified during the year, all of which were of the Pulmonary type of the disease. One of these was of a male and two of females. This is the lowest number of deaths which I can find record of in the area and is half the number recorded in the previous two years.

Pulmonary Death-rate per 1,000	=	0.218
Non-pulmonary ,, ,, ,,	=	0.000
Death-rate (all forms)		<u>0.218</u>

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY—1948.
(IN AGE GROUPS)

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-5 yrs.			1					
5-15 „				1				
15-25 „		3						
25-35 „	4	4				1		
35-45 „	1							
45-55 „					1	1		
55-65 „								
Over 65 ys.								
Totals	5	7	1	1	1	2		

TREATMENT OF NOTIFIED CASES.

The treatment of Tuberculosis has now passed from the County Council to the Hospital Boards as from the 5th July, 1948. "After-care" Committees have ceased to function and in their place is a Committee of the County Council which directs the work of the Tuberculosis Health Visitors. Local Authorities can help in the prevention of the spread of this disease by giving special attention to the needs of tubercular families for adequate housing. It is essential that every infectious case should have a bedroom to himself if he stays at home. Rent allowance should also be given in necessitous cases, as if the rent is too high then the family will probably be insufficiently fed and thus fall victims to the disease.

CANCER.

Deaths from this disease rose to 33 (15 males and 18 females) which gives a rate of 2·406 per 1,000. The rate for England and Wales was 1·858.

The increase in this disease as a cause of death is no doubt in great part due to the fact that more people are now living to the ages at which Cancer is most likely to occur.

In early diagnosis and treatment lies the best chance of cure and it is probable that routine medical examinations of persons of middle age or over, combined with notification of the disease,

might do a great deal towards having cases treated at an earlier stage than many are at present.

The following are the numbers of deaths and death-rates in the Rural District for the last seven years :-

Year	Number of Deaths	Death-rate per 1,000
1942	24	1.654
1943	22	1.559
1944	25	1.795
1945	31	2.825
1946	22	1.617
1947	20	1.462
1948	33	2.406

CAUSES OF DEATH—1948.

Cause of Death	Number of Deaths		
	Male	Female	Total
Heart Disease	25	35	60
Cancer	15	18	33
Intra-cranial Vascular Disease	5	14	19
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	6	2	8
Pneumonia	4	3	7
Nephritis	3	1	4
Other Digestive Diseases ...	3	1	4
Violence	4	0	0
Tuberculosis	0	2	2
Whooping Cough	1	0	1
All other causes	16	8	24
TOTALS	82	84	166

